

Also, access to quality healthcare is critically important. I have introduced legislation to bring more doctors to underserved areas around the country, like the San Joaquin Valley, by creating new medical schools. Everyone, no matter who they are or where they live, deserves access to quality healthcare.

These investments will make life better for Americans and will help spur economic growth by creating millions of good-paying jobs. Guess what? We need them.

The health and development of our communities and the economy depend on infrastructure, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in building back America's future better.

It is essential that, in the next few months, we pass the bipartisan infrastructure package, the infrastructure bill and reconciliation package, to bring this country together and to invest in the future.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 2½ minutes remaining.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CAROL MILLS

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and a strong, strong advocate for students in my home of Fresno, California, Carol Mills.

Carol Mills was passionate about everything she ever did. She was a 17-year trustee for the Fresno Unified School District, the third largest school district in California, and spent every moment of that time fighting for more and better opportunities for kids.

Early this year, Carol Mills was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. We all know it is a terrible disease, yet she continued to work throughout that courageous battle with Lou Gehrig's disease and served on the Fresno Unified School Board. Why? Because that was Carol.

During my time in Congress, I got to know and see firsthand her passion for helping students. Two months ago, I visited Carol at her home. We recounted efforts in the past. We laughed. We shared the challenges of the future because, over the years, she never lost sight that our country's future comes first when we prioritize the education, the quality education, of America's next generation. That is why Carol made a difference in everything she ever did.

Our community and the students of Fresno Unified School District were made better because of Carol Mills' passion and dedication to not only her service but to the quality of their education and the future of America.

She will be missed dearly by everyone who knew and loved her. My thoughts and prayers go to the family during this very, very difficult time.

Carol, we loved you. God bless.

SUPPORT HYDE AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, in 1994, a senior U.S. Senator was asked by a constituent how he felt about taxpayer-funded abortion. The Senator responded, "I will continue to abide by the same principle that has guided me throughout my 21 years in the Senate: Those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them."

That Senator is now the President of the United States. Yes, those were the words of President Joe Biden on April 7, 1994.

Only 2 years ago, in 2019, then-candidate Biden reaffirmed his support of the Hyde amendment. A campaign statement reiterated that "his position on the Hyde amendment has been consistent."

Since 1976, Congress' position on the Hyde amendment has also been consistent. The bipartisan Hyde amendment has prevented taxpayer funding for abortion.

But, for the first time in decades, House Democrats have stripped this provision from the Federal spending bills we are considering this week. Years of bipartisan consensus have been thrown out the door.

The Hyde amendment is a common-sense provision that most Americans support. In a recent poll, nearly 60 percent of Americans expressed their support for the Hyde amendment, while only 38 percent voiced support for taxpayer-funded abortions.

But this issue is not about the polling or the politics; it is about life. It is estimated that the Hyde amendment has saved more than 2.4 million lives. For over 40 years, these very precious lives have been respected, valued, and saved because of this bipartisan provision.

The survival of millions more precious lives is at stake. That is why I implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to reconsider their decision to strip the Hyde amendment from the spending bills we are considering this week. As a society, we must value the unborn and protect the sanctity of life.

Congressman Henry Hyde fought to ban taxpayer-funded abortions, he said, because he believed firmly in the sanctity of life. As he said, the "little, almost-born infant struggling to live is a member of the human family," and "abortion is a lethal assault against the very idea of human rights and destroys, along with a defenseless little baby, the moral foundation of our democracy."

The late Congressman Hyde was right. This is a moral question. That is why I agree with President Biden's statement when he was in the Senate many years ago: Those who disagree with abortion should not now be forced to pay for it.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together, just as we

have for nearly five decades, to support the Hyde amendment and stand up and defend life.

CALLING FOR FREEDOM AND LIBERTY IN CUBA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the topic of the recent protests in Cuba, where individuals there are simply asking for freedom and liberty.

My mother is one of 14 children. Her maiden name is Suarez, Eulalia Maria Suarez. She came from Cuba at 20 years old in 1961. My mother and my father raised me to defend freedom, freedom of speech. My father fought in Vietnam against the communist advance there.

What we in America sometimes don't realize is, many other countries, especially communist countries that are tyrannical like Cuba, do not enjoy the basic human rights that we enjoy in this country and many other people in the world enjoy.

Those rights, such as free speech and uncensored internet access, they don't have that in Cuba. Freedom of the press, freedom to protest, freedom to criticize your government, the right to vote in an actual election with more than one candidate who doesn't get 100 percent of the vote, they don't have those rights in Cuba.

What they have is a tyrannical, evil regime that oppresses their people every day. They arrest demonstrators. We saw brave men and women in Cuba for the first time since 1994, almost 30 years, thousands of brave men and women, people in Cuba, protesting against their government, asking for freedoms, asking for basic rights like the ones I just mentioned that they don't have.

What did they do? They all got arrested. They put them in jail. They say it is for a year. When that year goes by, when the regime in Cuba hopes nobody else is looking, they are going to make it 5 years. And they abuse them in jail. That is what happens to protesters in these types of countries.

Now, look, I want to say that I actually agree with Joe Biden on this, on what he said. Joe Biden said, on July 12, this year, and I am going to quote him: "We stand with the Cuban people and their clarion call for freedom and relief from the tragic grip of the pandemic and from the decades of repression and economic suffering to which they have been subjected by Cuba's authoritarian regime. The Cuban people are bravely asserting fundamental and universal rights."

President Biden continues: "Those rights, including the right of peaceful protest and the right to freely determine their own future, must be respected. The United States calls on the Cuban regime to hear their people and serve their needs at this vital moment rather than enriching themselves."